PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS
IADN: ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE AMERICAS
(LAG-G-00-00-00036-00)

Quarterly Report
April 1 – June 30, 2004

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I.   BACKGROUND

The 1995 Summit of the Americas Plan of Action called for preserving and strengthening the community of democracies in the Americas by stressing economic prosperity, democracy and human rights in the hemisphere. At the same time, the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN or Network) began to take shape as a result of the joint efforts of five Latin American civil society organizations, working with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Partners of the Americas (Partners), to use citizen participation to strengthen and support the process of democratization which was sweeping across Latin America.

In 1995, USAID/LAC entered into a five-year cooperative agreement with Partners to build the Inter-American Democracy Network. The grant enabled this core group of founding members to transfer their skills in participatory democratic practices to dozens of other CSOs in the region. In September, 2000, building on the success in the first five years and based on a participatory evaluation of the IADN, USAID extended its support of the IADN through a new Cooperative Agreement with Partners. This three-year program was designed to increase and sustain collaborative action among leading CSOs in the region. The program focused on further strengthening the IADN, to ensure that: (1) its efforts to support self-help collaboration between members could be sustained; and (2) the network becomes a viable voice for civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, Partners has worked with the Network to design and implement its governance structure—including a democratically-elected Coordinating Group and an Executive Secretariat. Moreover, Partners has guided the development of an Internet-based system for communications and outreach, the participatory development of network governing processes, and workshops, training and assistance in such areas as fund raising and alliance building. The Network has grown into the largest organization of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, counting among its members some 350 CSOs from 24 countries.

In 2003, USAID extended and expanded its existing Cooperative Agreement (LAG-G-00-00-00036-00) with Partners. This new, two-year agreement entitled "Inter-American Democracy Network: Engaging Civil Society in the Americas," will:

- Increase the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations to participate in, inform the agenda of and monitor the implementation of mandates resulting from the Summit of the Americas Process;
- Increase the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations to mobilize civil society participation in and monitoring and oversight of local and national government;
- Expand and strengthen the network of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations that encourage and assist civic activism at the local, national and regional levels.

II.   QUARTERLY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

During the second quarter of 2004, Partners and the IADN engaged in a myriad of key initiatives designed to strengthen the Network, mobilize citizen participation in hemispheric processes, and increase CSO capacity to implement transparency and anti-corruption activities. Among the quarter's many achievements, Coordinating Group members assembled for a productive May meeting, finalists were chosen for the "Transparency in the Americas" subgrant program, the IADN Secretariat submitted four project proposals, significant strides were taken in preparation for the 2005 Summit of the Americas, and the Citizen Participation Index was launched. These activities are summarized below:

May Coordinating Group Meeting

Members of the IADN Coordinating Group (CG) assembled from May 6 to May 8 for the first meeting of 2004. Prior to the start of the meeting, Partners organized and facilitated a day-long strategic planning workshop where participants analyzed the current status of the Network, envisioned how it would ideally function, and determined concrete steps to bring the Network from its current to ideal state. The workshop focused on four aspects of the IADN's current activities, including internal dynamics, program design and network communication, exterior relations and IADN sustainability. SWOT-related exercises in which participants identified the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for the Network, as well as visioning and planning activities, lent a great deal of clarity for the future of the Network and highlighted the importance of the direction-setting role of the CG. In concluding remarks, all participants saw the value in taking a step back and coming up with a common vision and action plan.

Building on this workshop, the IADN Secretariat then led the official two-day Coordinating Group meeting. The meeting included a presentation by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Project for Democratic Development in Latin America (PRODDAL) on the completion of a report entitled "Democracy in Latin America: Towards a Citizens' Democracy". Coordinating Group members agreed to contact their local UNDP country offices for national level promotion of the report and follow-up.

As mentioned in the last quarterly report, Partners, the Executive Secretariat, and the Coordinating Group have approved annual fee categories for the Network membership. In May, the Coordinating Group re-affirmed this decision and set October 31, 2004, as the implementation date for the membership fees; this will provide sufficient time to engage in membership outreach and education on the new fee structure and Network benefits. Additionally, businesses were added as potential Network affiliates, but without the benefits of voting, running for elected positions, or competing for sub-grant monies.

With the assistance of an Argentine legal counsel, Coordinating Group members revised and submitted their respective national organization charters in order for the Network to acquire legal NGO status in Argentina. All present CG members signed the statute recognizing the Secretariat's legal status in Argentina.

"Transparency in the Americas" Grants Program

During this quarter, the call for proposals for the $800,000 grants program, "Transparency in the Americas," was launched. Forty-one proposals were received from IADN member civil society organizations which work toward lowering the levels of corruption in planning and implementing public sector budgets. Twenty-seven of these proposals passed an initial round of evaluation and underwent a written review of their technical merit by an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from multi-lateral, bilateral and nonprofit organizations. On June 10, Partners convened the Advisory Committee in Washington, DC for a final review of all proposals and selection. Twelve proposals were selected as semi-finalists and one proposal was waitlisted. All 12 organizations have been notified and are in the process of contract negotiations with Partners. In total, the grants program will provide project funds to approximately 44 IADN members from 10 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Grantees will work together with local governments and citizens to cultivate transparency within their local governments. Funded projects will reinforce transparent budgetary rules and regulations, promote public access to budgetary information and increase citizen participation in monitoring and evaluating local budget plans and their implementation.

IADN Sustainability Plan in Action

The IADN Secretariat submitted, either as a primary recipient or co-recipient, project proposals to the OSI Development Foundation, USAID, the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), and the European Union (EU). The $1,500,000 OSI proposal seeks to engage civil society in activities related to political transparency by monitoring campaign contributions and promises and establishing civil society-political party dialogues in ten countries. A $1,546,000 proposal, "Building Trust between Political Parties and Civil Society", was submitted to the Global Democracy Department of USAID. The project seeks to bring together CSOs to reform political parties and party systems in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to improve citizen trust and credibility towards political parties, strengthen the legitimacy of the democratic state, and contribute to overcoming the crisis affecting political representation. A project totaling approximately $188,000 was submitted to IAF for the creation of a pilot program to train key, well-poised member organizations in deliberation and conflict mediation. These member organizations, in turn, would become regional training "centers" on deliberation for community organizations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Finally, in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany and Polilat.com of Argentina, a $1,188,000 proposal was submitted to the European Union to monitor, support and evaluate democratic development in five Latin American countries.

Civil Society Participation in the Summit of the Americas

In the past quarter, Partners established its role as the Secretariat for "Civil Society Collaborating to Build a Hemispheric Agenda", a strategy to broaden and deepen civil society participation leading up to the 2005 Summit of the Americas. The strategy will address national, sub-regional and regional civil society concerns and create spaces for civil society actors to interact with government, thereby increasing civil society participation in the formulation and implementation of national and regional policies. Working with a consortium of CSOs from throughout the

region, including the IADN, FOCAL and Corporacion Participa, Partners developed the strategy's concept paper identifying methodology, goals, objectives and expected results. Partners is currently identifying additional collaborating institutions from throughout the hemisphere.

Partners and two key collaborating institutions, Corporación Participa and the Canadian Foundation for the Americas, then discussed the strategy and shared the concept paper with the following organizations: the Organization of American States (OAS) Secretariat for the Summit process; the U.S. Department of State; the Inter-American Development Bank; the Canadian International Development Agency; the OSI Development Foundation; and the Inter-American Dialogue. Both the OAS and the U.S. Department of State expressed interest in collaborating in the implementation of the strategy.

Citizen Participation Index Launched

Partners sub-contracted Corporacion Participa to lead the implementation of a Citizen Participation Index in the following seven countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and the Dominican Republic. The Index, to be completed by the end of the year, builds on the pilot index previously funded by Partners and implemented by Participa in Chile and will analyze the degree of citizen participation in the following areas: political activities; religious activities; neighborhood and/or city activities; sporting activities; benefit or volunteer activities; union or professional activities; educational activities; artistic and cultural activities; election registration; committee activities; and protest activities. In the past quarter, the terms of reference were designed for choosing national polling firms, a methodology workshop was held with the project heads from each of the seven countries, and many final country-specific questionnaires were approved. Each country will now engage in the collection of data, which will then be submitted to Participa and its contracted polling firm, ADIMARK, for analysis and drafting of a final report.

III. MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUARTER

Component I – <u>Constructively Engage Civil Society in the Preparation, Accompaniment and Monitoring of the Summit of the Americas Process and Resulting Action Plan</u>

During the quarter, Partners engaged in activities that advanced the objectives identified in the first component of the 2003-2004 USAID workplan. After working with a consortium of CSOs from throughout the hemisphere to plan and facilitate the civil society forum at the Special Summit of the Americas, Partners has emerged from this group as a leader in designing a new, more inclusive and focused strategy for continuing CSO participation in the Summit of the Americas process. Through the Buenos Aires-based IADN Secretariat, key contacts have been made with Argentine officials responsible for the organization of the 2005 Summit and other Summit-related activities. The involvement of civil society in Summit issues and follow-up has been furthered by a newly designed format for the Civil Society Task Force and advancements in the Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy.

<u>Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter's Objectives</u>

I.   *Engaging LAC CSOs in the Special Summit of the Americas in 2004 and the 2005 Summit*

       1.1 "Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda"

Recognizing Partners key role in spearheading this strategy, Partners was chosen by the consortium of participating organizations - Corporacion Participa, FOCAL, IADN, Alianza Civica and University of Tulane - as the Secretariat for "Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda". As the project Secretariat, Partners is responsible for the overall management and implementation of the project, including managing any new funds and reporting requirements. Thus, in this past quarter, Partners took the lead in completing a concept paper, outreaching to key outside institutions, and recruiting additional organizations to help lead the strategy.

As outlined, "Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda" builds on years of work by multiple organizations, complementing the "Civil Society Follow-Up to Quebec's Summit of the Americas' Plan of Action" project implemented by Corporación PARTICIPA, FOCAL, FLACSO Chile, CRIES and the University of the Andes – a national level strategy that focuses on monitoring specific indicators for implementation of five critical Quebec City mandates.[1] "Civil Society Follow-Up to Quebec" and "Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda" will together address national, sub-regional and regional civil society concerns and create spaces for civil society actors to interact with government, thereby increasing civil society participation in the formulation and implementation of national and regional policies. The five objectives include:

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[1] The project ascertained the current status of the implementation of five Plan of Action mandates that relate specifically to the strengthening of democracy. These include: local government strengthening; decentralization; freedom of expression, opinion and the right of access to information; judicial reform and access to justice; and strengthening of participation in national and hemispheric processes.

- Engaging in public education to increase awareness of and engagement in the Summits of the Americas;
- Expanding civil society participation in the Summits by building regionally diverse thematic partnerships that incorporate CSOs who have not previously participated in the Summits;
- Deepening civil society contributions to the Summits using an innovative deliberative methodology that provides continuous dialogue and allows for more substantive contributions;
- Increasing and improving linkages between CSOs and the hemispheric bodies that are currently underutilized as points of entry into the Summit process (ie. Ministerial meetings, national-level forums and OAS General Assemblies); and
- Prioritizing previous Summit mandates and generating strategies to follow-through with their implementation.

With additional funding, Partners and collaborating organizations will mobilize CSOs to generate contributions to the Summit process through a series of theme-based virtual and face-to-face deliberative forums. Virtual deliberations will be followed by five regional meetings, which will in turn feed back into another round of virtual deliberations. Regional face-to-face deliberations will be held in North America, Central America, the English-speaking Caribbean, the Andean Region, and the Southern Cone. When possible, these meetings will coincide with official events to allow interaction with decision makers who are planning and executing Summit mandates. Travel grants will be provided to select CSOs that lack the financial resources to participate in the regional face-to-face deliberations, according to pre-determined selection criteria. Throughout the process, issues raised by participants will be circulated to policymakers and presented at strategic pre-Summit meetings, including official SIRG meetings, the 2005 Florida General Assembly, national-level dialogues, and a June 2005 civil society meeting that will unite this initiative with the *Civil Society Follow-up to Quebec's Summit of the Americas' Plan of Action* project. A civil society forum will also be organized in tandem with the November 2005 Summit in preparation for an official dialogue with ministers.

Potential themes for the deliberative groups include human rights (indigenous rights and gender equality), transparency/anti-corruption, sustainable development/environment, education, peace building, citizen participation, democracy and political parties, and labor. Sub themes will potentially be approached through the lens of the 2005 summit theme: creating jobs.

The strategy takes into account suggestions from collaborating institutions and insight from organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) Secretariat for the Summit process, the U.S. Department of State and the Inter-American Dialogue. Currently, Partners is seeking to leverage the existing funding and groundwork laid by the IADN and member organizations' USAID-funded Summit initiatives by pursuing additional funding for the strategy. Discussions have been launched with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency and others.

Partners is currently working with the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) to develop a joint publication on civil society participation in the Summit process. The publication will be finalized in the coming quarter.

1.2 Participation in the OAS General Assembly

During the past quarter, Partners participated in a civil society forum held in Quito, Ecuador, on April 26-27. The forum convened CSOs to discuss the status of democracy and participation in the hemisphere in preparation for the June OAS General Assembly (GA). Salient themes were then presented to the OAS and discussed by participants at the June GA. The forum was hosted by the Summit of the Americas Secretariat of the OAS, the Government of Ecuador, Transparency International Ecuador, Auditoria Democrática Andina, the Esquel Foundation in Ecuador, and FLACSO-Ecuador.

Building on our participation in this event, the Executive Secretary of the IADN attended the June GA and the preceding informal dialogue between civil society and governments. Gustavo Gamallo, the IADN Executive Secretary, was designated as one of four official CSO representatives to present the April forum results.

II. Building CSO Awareness and Understanding of the Summit Process and Action Plans

2.1 Civil Society Task Force

Partners and the Esquel Group Foundation (EGF) continued the Washington-based monthly meetings bringing together from 30 to over 90 representatives of NGOs, academia, international organizations, labor unions, and US and other government agencies. These meetings discuss themes relevant to the Americas agenda. Partners and Esquel have partnered with the United States National Coordinator for the Summit of the Americas at the US Department of State, the Inter-American Dialogue and the Council on the Americas to use the Task Force to host bi-monthly meetings focusing specifically on Summit-related themes.

In the past quarter, the Task Force held three meetings. In May, a dialogue entitled "Helping Families Capitalize on Remittances: Financial Options and Development Opportunities" featured presentations by Geetha Rao of the U.S. Treasury Department, Jolyne Sanjak of USAID, Carla Decker of the District Government Employees' Federal Credit Union, Marnie Schilken of the Inter-American Foundation, Donald Terry of the IDB Multilateral Investment Fund and a member of Inter-American Dialogue Task Force on Remittances.

On June 1, the Task Force held a special session at the Inter-American Development Bank titled "Strengthening Civil Society and a Culture of Democratic Citizenship". A mid-June session, "Transforming Power Relations in Communities: Can Development Assistance Play a Constructive Role?", included presentations by Juan Javier Martínez of REDES in El Salvador, Sérgio Gregório Baierle of CIDADE in Brazil, Robert Yaguache of CEDERENA in Ecuador, Maria das Graças "Dona Geralda" Marçal of Asmare in Brazil, and Jose Aparecido Gonçalves of Asmare in Brazil.

The participant lists are included in the annex. In addition, the Esquel Group Foundation's quarterly activity summary can be found in the annex.

2.2 IADN Virtual Information Sharing on the Summit Process

In the past quarter, the IADN continued to expand civil society knowledge of the Summit process by sharing information related to the 2005 Summit. The IADN's civil society news service, INFORID, has published and distributed at least five Summit-related articles reaching civil society and mass media from throughout the hemisphere. Also, the IADN website posts Summit-related developments along with a comprehensive introduction to the Summit process and the importance of civil society engagement. Opinion pieces outlining opportunities for CSO engagement and the connect between NGOs, the Summit and globalization have been posted on the IADN's website.

The two opinion pieces, "El Proceso de Cumbres" and "Las ONG's, las Cumbres y la Globalización", can be found in the annex to this section.

III. Mobilizing Civil Society Participation in Monitoring the 2001 Quebec Summit Action Plan Implementation

3.1 Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy for the Québec City Plan of Action

In the last quarter, Partners continued to support Corporación Participa's efforts to work with organizations from 20 countries in the region to educate citizens and CSOs about the Summit of the Americas and the commitments made by governments to strengthen democracy. As part of Partners' sub-contract with Participa, this project has been extended to Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. The Follow-Up Strategy has collected information using quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure the degree of implementation of the access to information, freedom of expression, strengthening of civil society, access to justice and independence of the judiciary, and decentralization and strengthening of local governments mandates from the Quebec City Plan of Action.

Working with the national coordinators, Participa has finalized and released 17 of the 20 national reports. These reports are available at: www.sociedadcivil.org. In Ecuador, Corporación Latinoamericana para el Desarollo (CLD) will lead the national survey and will be signing a memorandum of understanding with Participa. Notwithstanding, CLD has begun collecting information and its report is expected to be finalized in mid-August.

Participa's quarterly report can be found in the annex.

Annex
1. Civil Society Task Force Participant Lists
2. Esquel Group Foundation's Quarterly Report
3. "El Proceso de Cumbres"
4. "Las ONG's, las Cumbres y la Globalización"
5. Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy for the Québec City Plan of Action Quarterly Report

Component II - Mobilize and Sustain Civil Society Participation in Informing, Accompanying and Monitoring Anti-Corruption and Transparency Efforts

During the reporting period, Partners laid the foundation for increasing the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations to mobilize citizen participation in the monitoring and oversight of local and national governments. Activities have focused on signing agreements between Partners and Transparency International and launching the $800,000 "Transparency in the Americas" Grants Program. Partners signed an agreement with Transparency International to host a joint Transparency, Anti-Corruption and Civil Society regional conference next year along with other anti-corruption monitoring activities. Secondly, Partners launched an $800,000 grant program designed to ensure maximum results for the investment of financial and technical resources. In addition, Partners met with the grant program's Advisory Committee to evaluate and select 12 projects for funding.

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter's Objectives

I.   *Collaboration formalized between the IADN, regional and hemispheric associations, and municipal and local government officials and organizations*

   1.1 Transparency International- LAC

Throughout the quarter, Partners has met with the director of Transparency International-LAC and other TI staff members to investigate possible areas for formal collaboration including a region-wide Transparency and Anti-Corruption Conference and the Monitoring of the OAS Convention Against Corruption. Transparency International-LAC participated as a member of the Advisory Committee for the IADN's "Transparency in the Americas" Grants Program. In addition, Partners and Transparency International-LAC signed a new, multi-year collaborative agreement. Currently Partners and TILAC have developed a proposal to look for additional funding for the regional Transparency and Anti-Corruption Conference that is tentatively planned for spring of next year.

Signed agreement is attached for review.

   1.2 Florida International University

Similarly, Partners was invited to host a panel on "Civil Society and Local Governance: Building New and Better Relationships" for the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities that took place in Miami, Florida June 22-24, 2004. Partners and IADN members identified a number of excellent mayors and representatives of IADN member civil society organizations from Colombia, Paraguay and Guatemala to serve as panelists. Unfortunately none of those identified were able to secure US visas in time to participate in the conference. As a result, Partners had to decline the invitation to host the panel. However, conference information was disseminated on the IADN website and a number of IADN organizations nominated mayors and local authorities to present innovative practices. One such nomination, the mayor of Moron, Argentina, was highlighted during the conference.

1.3 USAID - Paraguay

Over the course of the last quarter, Partners continued following up on a request by Steven A. Marma, Democracy Officer for the USAID Paraguayan missions, to sponsor a conference/training for civil society watchdog organizations in Paraguay. Conference details are currently being discussed between Partners and the Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo (CIRD), USAID's sub-grantee for civil society programs in Paraguay and an offspring organization of Partners of the Americas Paraguay/Kansas partnership. Partners and CIRD have decided to hold the conference in Asunción for members of the Red de Controlorias Ciudadanas of Paraguay and IADN members in the southern cone region. We anticipate that the conference will take place early next year and will provide opportunities for southern cone watchdog organizations to build organizational and technical capacity through the sharing of best practices and specialized training.

II.   *Transparency in the Americas Grant Program: Financial and Technical Resources Provided to Network Members to Implement Transparency/Anti-Corruption Initiatives*

To contribute to lowering the levels of corruption in planning and implementing public sector budgets, thereby increasing government efficiency and responsiveness to citizens' needs, Partners launched the "Transparency in the Americas" grants program for IADN member organizations on April 2, 2004. This program will provide small grants to up to 44 IADN member civil society organizations in ten Latin American and Caribbean countries working towards strengthening citizen participation in initiatives that improve transparency in all stages of the planning and execution of public sector budgets. Grantees will work together with IADN members, local governments and other stakeholders reinforcing transparent budgetary rules and regulations, promoting public access to budgetary information and promoting citizen participation in monitoring and evaluating local budget plans and their implementation. The grant program will provide CSOs with the opportunity to improve their technical capacity, foster an enabling environment for CSO and local government collaborations, and strengthen the IADN in order to support regional transparency and anti-corruption initiatives.

2.1 Sub-Grant Advisory Committee

In order to incorporate expert opinion into the grants program, Partners formed an Advisory Committee in March 2004. The committee was comprised of bilingual representatives from ICMA, UNDP, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Transparency International-LAC, Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Americas (CEJA), USAID, Partners of the Americas and the Secretariat of the IADN all of which have recognized expertise in the areas of anti-corruption, transparency, local government and judicial reform in Latin America and the Caribbean. Committee members spent most of the quarter actively reviewing the grant proposals received by the May 7, 2004, deadline. Using the evaluation sheets designed with pre-approved selection criteria, teams of two to three Committee members scored an average of ten proposals each. Individual scoring sheets were sent to Partners to be tabulated for reference in the final evaluation and selection meeting. The meeting was programmed to take place in the offices of Partners of the Americas in Washington, DC on June 10-11, but due to the unforeseen death of President Reagan and the declaration of a federal holiday on Friday June 11 the agenda was

compressed into a one-day meeting. As a result, on Thursday, June 10, 2004, the Committee met to select grant program finalists for the "Transparency in the Americas" program among a total of 27 grant proposals that had met the basic eligibility requirements. Unfortunately, only five representatives of the eight original Advisory Committee member organizations were able to meet in Washington, including ICMA, USAID, Transparency-International-LAC, the Secretariat of the IADN and Partners of the Americas. The opinions and evaluations of representatives from the UNDP, IDB and CEJA were received electronically and incorporated into the revision process to the extent possible. In the upcoming quarter, Advisory Committee members will be updated on the progress of the sub-grant program, asked to evaluate the selection process and will be invited to participate in monitoring and evaluation meetings and virtual trainings according to their interest and availability.

June 2004 meeting agenda are attached for review.

2.2 Terms of Reference Developed and Disseminated

On April 2, 2004, Partners and the IADN published the terms of reference for the "Transparency in the Americas" grants program. The grants program Terms of Reference and Evaluation Criteria were disseminated electronically to all IADN members and through the IADN web-page. Partners established a separate e-mail account to address the more than 54 concerns or questions candidates had during the extended consultation process that took place April 2-14. Answers to the 17 most frequently ask questions were also posted on the IADN web page grant program's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section for the reference of all potential candidates. IADN members had between April 2 and May 7, 2004 to develop and submit their proposals.

In the end, Partners received a total of 41 proposals, of which 27 met the basic eligibility criteria described in the terms of reference. Proposals were then distributed among three evaluation teams made up of two to three Advisory Committee members. Individual Committee members then scored each proposal based on the standardized evaluation sheet. At the same time, Partners sent e-mail messages to all USAID Mission's Democracy Officers informing them of the proposals submitted by organizations in their countries and requesting feedback and approval. Each proposal was evaluated and scored using the criteria outlined in the call for proposals and restated on the evaluation sheets designed and approved by the Committee. Completed evaluation sheets were then sent to Partners and scores were tabulated and shared during the June 10th selection meeting.

During the June meeting, members met in Partners offices to discuss the reviewed proposals and select project finalists. Committee members were provided with information on all 41 proposals received and the reasons behind the disqualification of 12 proposals for not meeting the basic eligibility requirements. Two additional proposals were disqualified at the request of USAID Democracy Officers at the missions in Peru and Bolivia. After discussing the final evaluation methodology, the Advisory Committee members were divided into small groups to revisit the seven to ten proposals they had previously scored. The small groups were ask to come to a consensus as to which proposals should be funded without hesitation, which proposals needed further consideration before funding and which proposals should not be funded. Committee

members then came back together as a larger group to discuss the small group recommendations. At the end of the discussion, 12 proposals were recommended for funding with some reservations and one proposal was waitlisted.

Overall, the proposals were very strong in the areas of training for citizen participation and collaborating with local CSOs. On the other hand, proposals were generally weak in the areas of advocacy, developing monitoring and evaluation plans, public communications strategies, technical understanding of local budgets, collaboration with government entities and strengthening the IADN. During the last part of the quarter, the 12 semi-finalists from ten different Latin American and Caribbean countries were contacted and contract negotiations were started. In addition, Partners revisited its monitoring and evaluation strategy and is adapting program indicators and monitoring tools to incorporate the projects that will be implemented by the grantees. Partners has also decided to build on the hands-on experience of Poder Ciudadano to help develop important training and technical capacity building opportunities for grantees and other IADN members implementing similar projects.

In the next quarter, Partners will distribute funds and jointly develop the monitoring and evaluation strategies with the grantees and the IADN Secretariat. During project implementation, Advisory Committee members can elect to receive up-to-date information on project outcomes, successes and lessons learned. Moreover, Partners will plan a workshop for sub grantees to exchange effective practices and receive training and technical support in the area of project monitoring and evaluation and develop other opportunities for virtual and on-the-ground training.

A list of proposals received, a copy of 17 of the most frequently asked questions along with their answers, the PowerPoint presentation for the Committee's June meeting with charts demonstrating country and regional distribution, the Committee meeting notes, and a list of semi-finalist are attached for review.

III.   *Information and Resources on Transparency/Anti-Corruption Disseminated to Membership and other CSOs*

        3.1 Online Course "Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process"

The IADN Secretariat, with assistance from an online adult education specialist, is designing a virtual course called "Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process" that will be hosted within Poder Ciudadano's Centro Virtual de Capacitación para la Acción Colectiva (www.accioncolectiva.net). Next quarter, Transparency in the Americas grantees will be encouraged to participate in the course and provide feedback. The training course is being developed with the goal of providing CSOs with a new tool for social control, participation and impact on local government transparency and public policies. After completing the virtual course, participants should be able to identify what a participatory budget is and how it can be used to improve transparency; recognize what kind of work is done to prepare a participatory budget and, finally, acquire and develop the tools and strategies required to outline an advocacy program with the aim of attaining the implementation of a participatory budget in their

community. Once the course receives feedback from the sub grantees it will be made available for all IADN members.

Annex
1. Partners of the Americas and TILAC Signed Agreement
2. Agenda for June 10th Advisory Selection Committee Meeting
3. List of 41 proposals received for the "Transparency in the Americas" sub-grant program
4. Copy of 17 of the most frequently asked questions about the "Transparency in the Americas" sub-grant program along with their answers
5. PowerPoint presentation for Committee's June meeting containing charts demonstrating country and regional distribution
6. Advisory Selection Committee June 10th meeting notes
7. List of semi-finalist in the "Transparency in the Americas" sub-grant program

Component III – Consolidate and Strengthen the Network for Sustainability

During the past quarter, Partners supported the IADN Secretariat in expanding its visibility and membership, seeking new funding opportunities, implementing virtual learning courses for its membership, and strengthening its organizational structure. The IADN Secretariat's complete quarterly report is included in the annex. The following section outlines these activities and other, related initiatives.

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter's Objectives:

I.   Building the IADN Coordinating Group's Capacity to Govern the Network

1.1 Partners Strategic Planning Workshop with Coordinating Group

On May 6, IADN Coordinating Group members met for a special session organized and facilitated by Partners in preparation for the official CG meeting. As the Network more intensely prepares for sustainability, Partners recognized that developing a common long-term CG vision is critical for the Network's ability to develop short, medium, and long-term goals and action plans. Following the appreciative inquiry methodology, Partners led CG members through discussions and brainstorming that identified a collective set of values, goals and objectives for the IADN. Afterwards, the focus shifted to sub-group work where participants exchanged thoughts on the IADN's current operating procedures in regard to internal dynamics, program design and network communication, exterior relations and Network sustainability. This session utilized the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis to help guide the discussion. Subgroups reconvened to share their results and engage in a broader discussion. In the afternoon, CG members mapped out their optimal short and long-term visions for the IADN and then identified concrete steps to achieve these visions. The workshop concluded with dialogue about how to link the day's activities with the official CG meeting. Key ideas and conclusions were then prepared for CG members to use as a reference over the next two-days.

A copy of the agenda and summary are included in the annex.

1.2 May Coordinating Group Meeting Decisions

On May 7-8, the CG members came together for the semiannual meeting of discussion, planning and decision-making in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Led by the IADN Secretariat, the CG members engaged in substantive dialogue, and in the end, undertook key responsibilities necessary for strengthening the Network. The meeting covered a broad range of topics including:

- A presentation by the UNDP Project for Democratic Development in Latin America (PRODDAL) on its a report entitled "Democracy in Latin America: Towards a Citizens' Democracy". As a well-respected Network with significant outreach capabilities, the UNDP staff recognized that the IADN could help develop a hemispheric dissemination strategy for the report. Coordinating Group members agreed to contact their local UNDP country offices to assist in national level promotion of the report and follow-up.

- A report and discussion of the Secretariat's previous quarterly report and activities.

- Strategic planning for following-up on prospective fundraising opportunities, including those from USAID, OSI, IAF, Great Britain and the EU. Utilizing the backgrounds and strengths of the CG members, the Secretariat and CG engaged in a substantive discussion outlining next steps for the proposals and assigning individuals to lend support for the drafting of each proposal.

- Individual sessions with an Argentine legal counsel arranged to present and discuss papers that the CG members had brought from their countries documenting international legal standing. With international legal character and representation, the Secretariat could officially register for legal status in Argentina. Bestowed with the ability to legally represent their organizations, the CG members then convened to sign the IADN's statutes. The Secretariat has now officially submitted its documentation for processing by the Argentine government.

- CG approval for the membership fee implementation date, October 31, 2004, and the addition of businesses as a new type of affiliate without the privileges of voting, running for elected positions, or competing for sub-grant monies. As part of its membership drive, the Secretariat agreed to update the membership database by June 15 and hold national-level member meetings by August 30 to reach-out to and educate IADN members on Network benefits and the new membership fee structure.

- A discussion on the criteria for IADN conflict intervention. The CG overwhelmingly agreed that any such decisions must by approved by the Coordinating Group and done in the context of the Democratic Charter.

The following Coordinating Group members participated in the meeting: Rosangela Giembinsky (Movimiento Voto Consciente, Brazil); Elida Cecconi (Gadis, Argentina); Alejandro Laos (Servicios Educativos Rurales, Peru); Andrea Sanhueza (Participa, Chile); Miriam Díaz (Participación Ciudadana, Dominican Republic); Laurie Cole (FOCAL, Canada); Cecilia Cortés (FUNPADEM, Costa Rica); Cynthia Smith (Partners); and Silvia Guarde, Carlos March, Gustavo Gamallo and Nora Arzeno(IADN Secretariat).

The Coordinating Group meeting agenda and minutes are included in the annex.

1.3 IADN Procedures Manual

Like any organization, a handbook that summarizes all of the IADN's policies is critical to the institution's ability to function independently. Partners has moved forward with this manual and has collected much of the necessary information from the Secretariat and hosting organizations needed for its development. In the next quarter, this information will be used as a basis for the drafting of the manual. The procedures manual will be transferred between Secretariats and will significantly assist the Coordinating Group, both new and future members, in its ability to govern the Network for years to come.

II.   Developing a Long Term Sustainability Plan and Increasing IADN Membership

2.1 Funding Proposal Developments

As part of the efforts to build a sustainable Network, Partners and the IADN Secretariat have aggressively been identifying potential sources for direct IADN Secretariat funding. As mentioned in the previous report, discussions have been launched with the Inter-American Foundation. After an exchange of ideas, the Secretariat submitted a project totaling approximately $188,000 for the creation of a pilot program to train key, well-poised member organizations in deliberation and conflict mediation. These member organizations, in turn, would become regional training "centers" on deliberation for community organizations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Partners facilitated the proposal drafting and is a sub-contractor in the project.

The IADN Secretariat also submitted project proposals to the OSI Development Foundation, USAID, and the European Union (EU). The $1,500,000 OSI proposal seeks to engage civil society in activities related to political transparency by monitoring campaign contributions and promises and establishing civil society-political party dialogues in ten countries. A $1,546,000 proposal, "Building Trust between Political Parties and Civil Society", was submitted to the Global Democracy Department of USAID. The project seeks to bring together CSOs to reform political parties and party systems in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to improve citizen trust and credibility towards political parties, strengthen the legitimacy of the democratic state, and contribute to overcoming the crisis affecting political representation. For both of these proposals, the Secretariat reached out to the membership base asking for brief project ideas centered on the proposal's goal and objectives. The activities presented were developed based on membership strengths and would incorporate a broad range of members. Finally, in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany and Polilat.com of Argentina, a $1,188,000 proposal was submitted to the European Union to monitor, support and evaluate democratic development in five Latin American countries.

A copy of the IAF, OSI, USAID and EU proposals are included in the annex.

2.2 Membership Fee Structure Approved

For the last nine years, IADN membership has been free of charge. While helpful in enlisting new members, the Network has recognized that it should assess an annual membership fee to support its growing portfolio of initiatives, help create a sense of belonging, and above all, provide funding necessary for the transition toward self-sustainability. In the last quarterly report, it was reported that Partners, the Executive Secretariat, and the Coordinating Group have approved the following annual fee categories based upon the member's annual organizational budget :

Annual Organizational Budget   Annual Membership Fee
Up to US$ 75,000…………………………......US$75
From US$75,001 to US$150,000……………..US$100
From US$150,001 to US$250,000…………....US$150

From US$250,001 to US$500,000………..…...US$200
From US$500,001 to US$1,000,000…..……...US$300
More than US$1,000,001……………..……....US$400

Under this plan, individuals or businesses may also join the Network. However, unlike member organizations, individual and business members will not be permitted to vote, run for elected positions, or compete for sub-grant monies. The two types of individual categories are: follows:

Friends of the IADN.......................................US$50
Young Friends of the IADN (ages 16 to 24)….US$20
Businesses…………………………………..US$400

A bank account will be opened in the U.S. for receipt of the membership fees. After an outreach campaign highlighting the many merits of IADN membership, the fees will be implemented on October 31, 2004.

2.3 Outreach to IADN Members

IADN members receive a plethora of communications from the Network and its Executive Secretariat including frequent INFORID articles, monthly bulletins, and other pieces of information. Beyond virtual interaction, select Coordinating Group members have convened the participation of network members in their countries to discuss IADN achievements, priorities and needs of its members. In the last quarter, Colombian-based Coordinating Group member Universidad de los Andes hosted a meeting of all Colombian-based IADN member organizations. In Ecuador, the Esquel Foundation held a meeting with IADN members on April 28. In May, Movimiento Voto Consciente brought the Brazilian members together to discuss IADN programs, develop a national agenda, and exchange opinions. Also in May, the Secretariat and Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental (IDEA) convened the Paraguay members to analyze IADN actions and discuss the possibility of developing a national agenda. In June, Corporación Participa held a meeting with Chilean members and representatives from other countries to discuss the projects it is carrying out under the auspices of the IADN.

2.4 New Member Drive

The last quarter saw an unprecedented growth in IADN membership. In total, 83 organizations joined the IADN, increasing the membership base to 358 organizations. The following table lists the 83 new members and their country of origin:

1	Centro de Políticas Públicas para el Socialismo	Argentina
2	Foro Social para la Transparencia	Argentina
3	Fundación de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales	Argentina
4	Fundación Grupo Sophia	Argentina
5	Fundación Judaica	Argentina
6	Fundación Nueva Generación	Argentina
7	CEDIAC	Bolivia
8	Haciendo Bolivia	Bolivia

9	Centro de Entrenamiento para el Trabajo	Chile
10	Fundación Presencia	Colombia
11	Uniendo Fronteras	Colombia
12	Asociación de Mujeres Arquitectas e Ingenieras	Argentina
13	Biblioteca Popular Fuerte de Sabiduría	Argentina
14	Centro Ambiental Argentino CAMBIAR	Argentina
15	DEFENSALUD	Argentina
16	Grupo de Mujeres de la Argentina Foro de VIH Mujeres y Familia	Argentina
17	Asociación Proactiva Boliviana	Bolivia
18	Centro de Mujeres Candelaria	Bolivia
19	Fundación Mojsa	Bolivia
20	Organismo de Asesoramiento e Investigación Social	Bolivia
21	Servicios Integrales para el Desarrollo	Bolivia
22	Corporación de Estudios y Desarrollo Norte Grande	Chile
23	Corporación Libertades Ciudadanas	Chile
24	Radio Terra	Chile
25	Asociación Comunitaria Manos Tejedoras	Colombia
26	Asociación colombiana de Ingenieros Forestales	Colombia
27	Asociación Desafío	Colombia
28	Asociación Juvenil de Ibagué	Colombia
29	Cámara Junior de Colombia Capitilio Pijao de Oro	Colombia
30	Centro de Promoción de Desarrollo	Colombia
31	Corporación por la Vida, la Justicia y la Equidad	Colombia
32	Fundación de Estudios Profesionales PUCURA	Colombia
33	Corporación Red País Rural	Colombia
34	Pastoral Social de la Arquidiócesis de Ibagué	Colombia
35	Red de Iniciativas para el Desarrollo	Colombia
36	Fundación Colombianos apoyando Colombianos	Colombia
37	Fundación Probidad y Transparencia Atlántico	Colombia
38	Vive Euclides Barragán Mendez	Colombia
39	Coordinadora Política Juvenil por la Equidad de Género	Ecuador
40	CORPECE	Ecuador
41	Tendiendo Puentes AC	Mexico
42	Grupo Cívico y Transparencia	Mexico
43	Sociedad de Estudios Rurales y cultura Popular	Paraguay
44	Instituto de Estudios Tecnológicos, Económicos y Sociales	Paraguay
45	Centro de Estudios Ambientales y Sociales	Paraguay
46	Asociación Civil Pro-Desarrollo Perú	Peru
47	Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo para la Gestión del Riesgo y Medio Ambiente	Peru
48	Centro para la Programación de Acciones Municipalidades	Uruguay
49	Asociación Civil para la Igualdad y Justicia	Argentina
50	Asociación Civil CASA DEL PEREGRINO	Argentina
51	Asociación Civil Participación Ciudadana	Argentina
52	Foro del Sector Social	Argentina

53	Fundación para el Equilibrio Democrático	Argentina
54	Acciones para el Desarrollo Integral	Bolivia
55	AFS Programas Interculturales Bolivia	Bolivia
56	Centro de Estudios y Trabajo de la Mujer	Bolivia
57	Ciudadanos Trabajando	Bolivia
58	Fundación Desierto	Bolivia
59	Grupo Nacional de Trabajo para la Participación	Bolivia
60	Universidad NUR	Bolivia
61	Instituto de Estudos do Trabalho e Sociedade	Brazil
62	Centro para el Desarrollo comunal y Regional de la corporación de Promoción Universitaria	Chile
63	Fundación para la Superación de la Pobreza Filial Arica-Parinacota	Chile
64	Organización cultural, social, Deportiva Villa Paraguay	Chile
65	Asociación de Veredas de la Calera	Colombia
66	Cámara de Comercio de Barranquilla	Colombia
67	Corporación Acción Ciudadana - Colombia	Colombia
68	Fundación para el Desarrollo del Caribe	Colombia
69	Fundación Pintando Sueños Comunicación y Cultura	Colombia
70	Fundación Ecológica Antisana	Ecuador
71	Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano	Ecuador
72	Fundación Q'ellkaj	Ecuador
73	Promotores y Comunicadores Ambientales	Mexico
74	Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Desarrollo Sostenible	Peru
75	Asociación TÚ, MUJER	Dominican Republic
76	Fundación Institucionalidad y Justicia	Dominican Republic
77	Opción Venezuela	Venezuela
78	Asociación Redes Nueva Frontera	Argentina
79	Federación Única de Organizaciones Populares de Mujeres de El Alto – La Paz	Bolivia
80	Instituto Comover	Brazil
81	Compañeros de las Américas New Jersey-Haití	United States
82	Grupo de Estudios y Apoyo Técnico	Paraguay
83	Centro de Estudios Estratégicos "Gral. Artigas"	Uruguay

2.5 Updated Membership Database

In the past quarter, the Secretariat has advanced in updating the membership database, updating contact information and members' areas of interest. In the transfer of the Secretariat from Ecuador to Argentina, it was determined that a major weakness of the Network was a lack of current member information. A diagnostic analysis showed that 105 member e-mail addresses no longer functioned. After extensive research, phone calls and other information collecting methods, the Secretariat has updated the contact information for 54 organizations and is awaiting the confirmation of 17 other members. The Secretariat has been unable to collect any

information on 34 of its members. The Coordinating Group must now discuss whether these 34 organizations can still be classified as members.

III.   *Expanding IADN Outreach and Disseminating News on Civil Society and IADN Activities*

       3.1 INFORID News Articles

In the last quarter, INFORID – the civil society news service that produces and disseminates news from member organizations fro media and civil society across the Americas – sent out 73 news items from member organizations to a 3,243 person distribution list. The majority of the news pieces were related to transparency and anti-corruption (18) and citizen participation in public policy setting (18). INFORID articles also focused on human rights (9), electoral processes (7), the state of democracy (5), education (4), Summit of the Americas (4), social responsibility (4), hemispheric processes (3), and volunteerism (1). While news articles covered 16 countries and/or sub-regions, most of the news items centered on activities in Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, and Peru.

An astounding 10 percent of IADN members from across the region took advantage of the INFORID to disseminate news originating from their organization. Further, over 30 percent of INFORID news articles were reproduced in other mediums of communication. This high percentage signifies not only that people are reading INFORID but that its coverage is much larger and broader than the listserv.

The annex contains a sampling of INFORID news articles including:
- "For the integration of border regions in Central America" (May 14);
- "Judicial Reform Discussed in Argentina" (June 1); and
- "Request to Guarantee the Fight Against Corruption in Ecuador " (June 28)

       3.2 Monthly Bulletins

The IADN monthly newsletter is disseminated to 1,296 recipients including Network members, organizations interested in Network activities, and others. Through this newsletter, the Secretariat is able to update all interested in the work of the IADN. In order to provide the most current information, the Secretariat now sends the bulletin on a semimonthly basis.

The May bulletin is included in the annex.

IV.   *Providing a Comprehensive Menu of Online Services*

       4.1 Implementation of Virtual Courses

A niche service offered by the IADN is virtual learning through courses of thematic interest to the membership. Partners and the IADN, in conjunction with the Escuela Virtual de Gobernabilidad, will be offering a three-month course titled "Constructing Social Capital" this fall. The course's goal is to strengthen participants' ability to analyze implement mechanisms for

civil society participation in public life and policymaking. USAID/IADN scholarships are available for members of the network, and to date, 92 students have enrolled in the course.

Another e-course, "Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process", will be hosted within the virtual training center Acción Colectiva (www.accioncolectiva.net). The training course will provide CSOs with a new tool for social control, participation and impact on local government transparency and public policies. Acción Collectiva was developed by IADN Secretariat host Poder Ciudadano; in June, Poder gave this technology to the IADN and the platform will soon be transferred to the IADN's website.

4.2 IADN Toolkit Development

During the last quarter, Partners has concentrated efforts on compiling materials, manuals, methodologies, case studies and other documents developed by IADN members to be placed on the IADN on-line tool kit. During this quarter an inventory and classification of resources produced by in previous IADN grant programs was completed. Next quarter, all electronic copies of materials will be made available to IADN member organizations through the online toolkit. In addition, serious attempts will be made with IADN members to obtain electronic copies of all toolkit materials for future publication on the IADN website.

A list of toolkit items is attached.

V. Highlighting the Importance of Citizen Participation

5.1 Citizen Participation Index

Building upon the success of a pilot project gauging current citizen participation and motivations for participation in Chile, Partners has sub-contracted Corporación Participa to conduct a citizen participation index in following seven countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and the Dominican Republic. Bolivia may potentially be added to the Index. In the past quarter, the terms of reference were designed for choosing national polling firms, a methodology workshop was held with the project heads from each of the seven countries, and four final country-specific questionnaires were approved – Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico. Each questionnaire must be modified to take into account country differences, thus final questionnaire approval is one of the project's most difficult tasks. In this next quarter, each country will use a national polling firm to collect data and then will submit the results to ADIMARK for analysis and publication of national reports.

The agenda for the methodology workshop, the quarterly report, and the final questionnaires from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico are attached.

Annex

1. IADN Executive Secretariat's Quarterly Report
2. Partners Strategic Planning Agenda and Summary
3. Coordinating Group Meeting Agenda and Minutes

4. IAF Proposal
5. OSI Proposal
6. USAID Proposal
7. EU Proposal
8. "For the integration of border regions in Central America" (May 14)
9. "Judicial Reform Discussed in Argentina" (June 1)
10. "Request to Guarantee the Fight Against Corruption in Ecuador " (June 28)
11. May Monthly Bulletin
12. List of toolkit materials available to IADN members
13. Citizen Participation Index Methodology Workshop Agenda
14. Final Questionnaires: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico
15. Citizen Participation Index Quarterly Report